



# Economics and Ecology of Diversification [ The Case of Tropical Tree Crops /

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Springer

Life sciences Agriculture Landscape ecology Sustainable development  
Development economics Agricultural economics Human geography Life  
Sciences Agriculture Sustainable Development Agricultural Economics  
Landscape Ecology Development Economics Human Geography

Monografía

The monoculture systems that have been encouraged by governments since the 1960s have led to major socio-economic and environmental crises. Now the diversification of tree crop systems is advancing throughout the tropics. Why and when does diversification take place? What categories of farmers diversify? What obstacles do they have to overcome, and how do public and private policies interfere in this process? How do land use systems and landscapes evolve as a result of this diversification? According to the authors of this volume, diversification is certainly a response to market risks, but also to the depletion of environmental resources. Ecological changes such as declining soil fertility and increasing pressure from pests, diseases and weeds intensify at the end of monoculture cycles, driving crop change and diversification of farming systems. Meanwhile, diversification is encouraged by governments but increasingly also by the private sector that offers free seedlings, credit, technical assistance and market outlets to farmers to encourage the adoption of certain crops in a context of increasing competition for land resources. Social changes such as the return of young people to the villages, investments of urban middle classes in plantation agriculture, aging of the rural work force and increasing population pressure also play a role in this process. Through 15 case studies from Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, the authors provide us with in-depth insights into the economy and ecology of family agriculture and its recent developments. The book targets professionals of the tropical tree crop sector, students and scientists working on economic and ecological questions of tropical land use, and anyone interested in sustainable rural development. While the case studies are from tropical contexts, the methodological approaches and discussions are also relevant to temperate agriculture

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**Editorial:** New York [etc.] Springer

**Descripción física:** IX, 340 p. 101 il., 9 il. in color

**Contenido:** Introduction - Economic and ecological aspects of diversification of tropical tree crops -- Chapter 1. Diversification of cocoa farms in Côte d'Ivoire: complementarity of and competition from rubber rent -- Chapter 2. Coconut farmers and lethal yellowing disease: a case study in two villages in Ghana's Central region -- Chapter 3. From the coffee-cocoa combination to oil palm cycles: the case of Dabou and Aboisso in Côte d'Ivoire -- Chapter 4. Development of oil palm plantations and orange groves in the heart of the cocoa territory in eastern Ghana -- Chapter 5. Rubber in the kingdom of cocoa. The south-west of Côte d'Ivoire in the 1990s -- Chapter 6. Rubber: natural rent, capitalization rent? West-central Côte d'Ivoire and southern Thailand -- Chapter 7. From Firestone to Michelin, a history of rubber cultivation in a cocoa-growing country: Ghana -- Chapter 8. Extensive fish farming, a complementary diversification of plantation economies -- Chapter 9. Determinants in the choice of perennial crops in diversified production systems of rubber growers in south-western Cameroon -- Chapter 10. Socio-economic conditions of horticultural diversification in cocoa production systems in southern Cameroon -- Chapter 11. Agroforestry-based diversification for planting cocoa in the savannah of central Cameroon -- Chapter 12. Diversifying Central American coffee agroforestry systems via revenue of shade trees -- Chapter 13. Coconut- and cocoa-based agroforestry systems in Vanuatu: a diversification strategy in tune with the farmers' life cycle -- Chapter 14. The place of cocoa and coconut cultivation in family plantations in peninsular Malaysia -- Chapter 15. Diversification and perennial-crop cycles in Aceh, Indonesia

**Detalles del sistema:** Modo de acceso: World Wide Web

**Fuente de adquisición directa:** Springer (e-Books)

**ISBN:** 9789401772945 978-94-017-7294-5 9789401772938

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